

**Bianca, Pam**

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**From:** deb henchel <deb\_henchel@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2015 2:48 PM  
**To:** LABTestimony  
**Subject:** Written testimony supporting HB 5860 (public hearing is 2/17 at 1:30pm)

I have been an employee of a Connecticut Probate Court for ten and a half years. I am currently an assistant clerk. I love working for the probate court, and am deeply appreciative of what Probate Administration has done for us. My main concern is job security. It terrifies me to think that if our judge retires or should pass away while in office, both myself and my coworkers could be laid off by the newly elected judge, with absolutely no cause given.

A great deal of the implementing of statutes that effect probate courts falls onto the shoulders of the clerks and assistant clerks. What is our incentive to implement them efficiently if we know that no matter how we perform our jobs we can lose our jobs at the whim of the successor judges? Our judges were elected. When judges want to be re-elected for another term they can campaign and try to persuade voters to believe that they do their jobs effectively. Who can we as state employees beg and plead to in order to keep our jobs? No one. It doesn't matter if we have been working at the court for five years or for twenty-five years. We have absolutely no protection and can lose our jobs no matter how well we perform them.

The current statutes also create a burden for the judges. For them to retire means they are putting our jobs on the line. They shouldn't have to bear that responsibility when their staff members are considered state employees.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

-Deborah Henchel  
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